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November 22, 1976

Mr. John Gordon Burke  
Editor  
American Libraries  
American Library Association  
50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Mr. Burke,

The item in American Libraries, October 1976, Page 551, entitled "How to Call the Watchdogs," is apparently the result of erroneous information.

The allegation that an individual who identified himself as a Central Intelligence Agency representative attempted to determine what library materials were being used by a U. S. citizen was forwarded to this Agency by Rep. Bella Abzug, Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, on September 20, 1976.

A careful check within the Central Intelligence Agency failed to reveal any information that an Agency representative visited the library cited nor would such a visit be made to any other American library. It is clear that the individual was not an employee of this Agency. Impersonation of a Federal officer is, of course, a criminal offense, and Mrs. Abzug's letter was forwarded to the Justice Department for such action as they deem necessary. There is no indication that this Agency has ever been involved in the type of incident mentioned.

The above information was communicated by the Director of Central Intelligence to Mrs. Abzug in a letter dated October 8, 1976.

I trust that you will set the record straight  
for the readers of American Libraries.

A Sincerely



Andrew T. Falkiewicz  
Assistant to the Director  
of Central Intelligence

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